

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00319 290103Z

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ACTION IO-11

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 319

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNDP, EAID

SUBJ:UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL, 21ST SESSION: PLENARY DISCUSSION,
AGENDA ITEMS 12: PROPOSED VENUE OF 22ND SESSION - HAVANA

REF: (A) STATE 590; (B) USUN 382

1. DURING THE DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM 12 OF JANUARY 21 --
A GENERAL ITEM COVERING ACTION BY OTHER UN BODIES BEARING
ON UNDP -- THE CUBAN DELEGATE TOOK THE FLOOR TO CALL
ATTENTION TO RESOLUTION 3491, THE UN CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
AND TO THE DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES WITH
RESPECT TO UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETINGS. CUBA REAFFIRMED
ITS INTEREST IN HAVING THE 22ND GOVERNING COUNCIL IN JUNE 1976
IN HAVANA, AND ASKED OTHER DELEGATES TO BE READY TO MAKE
A DECISION WHEN THE INVITATION IS FORMALIZED DURING
THE PLENARY'S DISCUSSION OF ITEM 15, (DATE AND PROVISIONAL
AGENDA OF THE 22ND SESSION). THIS ITEM IS EXPECTED TO COME
UP ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 30.

2. THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT (ALARCON OF CUBA) SOON INTERVENED
TO NOTE THAT DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION SHOULD APPROPRIATELY
AWAIT CONSIDERATION OF ITEM 15.

3. MEXICO AND SOMALIA HAD ALREADY SOUGHT THE FLOOR,
NIGER HAVING ALREADY SPOKEN, AND PROCEEDED TO SUPPORT THE CUBAN
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00319 290103Z

INVITATION.

4. THE U.S. DELEGATION THEN, AT THE CLOSE OF ITS REMARKS ON ANOTHER ASPECT OF ITEM 12, CALLED ATTENTION TO THE CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE OF THE DECISION TO BE TAKEN (ON VENUE FOR THE 22ND SESSION) AND SAID THE COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER VERY CAREFULLY.

5. THE USSR DELEGATE THEN INDICATED FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE CUBAN PROPOSAL. HE NOTED THAT IT WAS ENTIRELY IN KEEPING WITH UNDP RULES AND PROCEDURES THAT CUBA SHOULD HOST THE MEETING.

6. MEXICO CONCLUDED BY GIVING ITS FULL SUPPORT FOR THE INVITATION OF ITS "SISTER REPUBLIC," CUBA.

7. COMMENT: THE U.S. DEL HAS BEEN TIPPED OFF BY A MEMBER OF THE UNDP SECRETARIAT THAT A CUBAN INTERVENTION ON 22ND SESSION VENUE WOULD OCCUR UNDER ITEM 12. WE HAD NOT PLANNED TO REPLY BUT, FOLLOWING THE REMARKS OF NIGER AND SOMALIA, DECIDED TO REGISTER OUR CONTINUED CONCERN ON THIS ISSUE. THE PURPORT OF OUR BRIEF COMMENT WAS CLEAR TO OTHER DELEGATIONS. IN LINE WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION IN THE REFTEL, WE ARE CONTINUING TO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES BOTH WITH THE UNDP ADMINISTRATION AND WITH KEY DELEGATIONS WITHOUT APPEARING TO LEAD A CAMPAIGN. UNLESS BEHIND-THE-SCENES MANEUVERING RESULTS IN SOME SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE, WE INTEND TO STATE OUR POSITION ON THE RECORD WHEN THE ITEM COMES UP IN PLENARY.
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